

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 265799

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TAGS:NATO PFOR MNUC

SUBJECT: NPG MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE

REFS: (A) USNATO 6572; (B) USNATO 6660

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF B, MISSION SHOULD PROPOSE FOLLOWING
REDRAFT OF NPG MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE.

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2. BEGIN TEXT OF DRAFT COMMUNIQUE.

THE NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP (NPG), MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, HELD ITS SIXTEENTH MEETING TODAY IN NATO HEADQUARTERS, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.

SINCE ITS CREATION IN DECEMBER 1966, THE NPG HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGREED POLICY CONCERNING NUCLEAR ISSUES OF INTEREST TO NATO. AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED THE STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF NATO'S NUCLEAR DEFENSE: INCLUDING THE CURRENT STRATEGIC BALANCE AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS THAT COULD EVENTUALLY IMPACT ON THIS BALANCE.

THE MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE RECENT LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES CALLING FOR THE EXAMINATION OF TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OF NATO'S NUCLEAR POSTURE; AND AGREED ON THE CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF THEATRE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY WITHIN THE NATO DETERRENT TRIAD OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR, THEATRE NUCLEAR, AND CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES.

DURING THE SESSION THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS BRIEFED THE MINISTERS ON THEIR CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS TO FURTHER REFINE THEIR SPECTRUM OF PRE-PLANNED MILITARY OPTIONS.

REVIEWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NPG, THE MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE NPG'S WORK IS ESSENTIAL IN FURTHERING NATO'S OBJECTIVE OF DETERRENCE WHICH IS BASED ON A SPECTRUM OF CREDIBLE MILITARY CAPABILITIES DESIGNED TO CONTEND WITH AGGRESSION ON ANY LEVEL. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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